

CLIMATE CHANGE CONVENTION

ISSUE

To build Russia's capacity to meet its commitments under the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC), including (a) the development of a national plan, and (b) encouraging reductions in greenhouse gases and enhancing forest sinks.

BACKGROUND

Russia signed the FCCC in Rio, but has not ratified it. However, it has played an active role in UN climate processes, especially research on impacts of climate change.

Under the U.S. Country Studies program, the Russian proposal to support the development of a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and to analyze mitigation and adaptation options has been funded at \$1.2 million. The Russian work plan is being revised in accordance with suggestions from the U.S. side. The Russian study leader Avdushin met with the U.S. CS team April 14 during the meeting of the Environment Committee of the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission. A visit to Washington by Avdushin and/or others to refine the work plan is planned for June 27-July 2. A US technical assistance team is scheduled to visit Russia in August. The Russian study is led by the Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring (Roshydromet) and falls under the U.S.-Russia Environment Agreement, Area VIII.

PARTICIPANTS

Several other U.S.-Russian climate change projects are already well under way, as follows:

Projects Directly Supporting the Climate Convention

Integrated Resource Planning (Moscow, north Caucasus): EPA/OPPE-AID project introducing IRP to Russian electric utilities to reduce GHG gases (funding: \$450K)

Natural Gas and Methane: EPA/OAR project stimulating U.S. private investment in methane recovery through an information clearinghouse and prefeasibility studies. (funding \$300K)

RUSSAFOR (Russia-USA Forestry and Climate Change Project): EPA/OPPE pilot to assess the potential of Joint Implementation through forest management. Saratov and Vologda (\$250K). Seeking to expand project to Khabarovsk in FY94.

Center for Energy Efficiency, Moscow: EPA/OIA was the major initial funder (\$100K) to start the center, with WWF and others contributing additionally.

Energy Efficiency and Market Reform Project: USAID project which

seeks to improve energy efficiency and performance, support energy-sector privatization and market reform, and reduce safety risks at nuclear power plants.

Projects Indirectly Supporting the Convention

Natural Resource Environmental Management (Khabarovsk): EPA/AID/USFS demonstration project of sustainable management of natural resources, forests, biodiversity (approx. \$4.5M or greater)

Other projects offer indirect benefits, e.g., air quality management, Volgograd (EPA/AID, approx. \$3.5M)

U.S.-Russia Environment Agreement, Area 8 (Climate Change and Stratospheric Ozone): NOAA houses the Secretariat of WG 8, and coordinates activities with the State Hydrological Institute of Roshydromet, Moscow. Over 100 projects address climate impacts assessment, satellite monitoring of climate and vegetation systems, trace gas fluxes, paleoclimate studies, remote sensing, and climate and ocean data collection (\$250K Secretariat + grants to PIs by agencies)

USDA-Forest Service Russian Projects: The Federal Forest Service of Russia (FFSR) and USDA-Forest Service have developed cooperative activities to promote sustainable forest management. A Forestry MOU was signed in May. Projects with CC implications include: Forest Health Monitoring and Protection, especially 4 fire suppression and management projects, and forest inventory support; also Remote Sensing of Change in the Boreal Environment; and, indirectly, Sustainable Development Pilot Projects, in Khabarovsk and Krasnoyarsk regions; and working groups under the International Boreal Forest Research Association.

Source of U.S. Funding: USG agencies

TALKING POINTS

There are several opportunities for new initiatives, as follows:

- Russian Climate Action Plan: The USG offered (at the April GCEC meetings) to share U.S. experience preparing our Climate Change Action Plan to assist Russia's preparation of its climate change national plan required by the Climate Convention within six months of Russia's ratification.
- Joint Implementation: The USG could offer cooperation preparing and funding prefeasibility studies for 1-4 potential Joint Implementation projects under the U.S. Initiative on Joint Implementation, in energy efficiency, methane reduction, and forest management. USG could also assist any Russian interest in establishing an independent Joint Implementation clearinghouse and coordination facility in Moscow.

- Forest Monitoring: The USG could offer to help improve monitoring of Russian forest sinks, via remote sensing and ground truthing, via USFS, NASA, EPA. Initial steps, including installation of satellite data receiving stations in Siberia, have already been taken under the Space Committee. The Environment Committee is cooperating in this activity.
- At this meeting of the GCC Environment Committee, the following actions could be taken:
 - o Vice President Gore or Carol Browner urges Russians to ratify FCCC quickly, and prepare National Action Plan by September.
 - o Discuss potential new activities above, and any Russian ideas.

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 DOS/EUR/ISCA: RFerguson-Augustus
 DOS/OES/ENV: KThomas
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 NASA/IY: LCharles
 USFS/IF: BSteinberg
 DOE/S: JElkind
 EPA/OIA: GWaxmonsky